

will issue an order making any corrections to the transcript that the ALJ finds are warranted.

§ 221.57 What is the standard of proof?

The standard of proof is a preponderance of the evidence.

§ 221.58 When will the hearing record close?

(a) The hearing record will close when the ALJ closes the hearing, unless he or she directs otherwise.

(b) Evidence may not be added after the hearing record is closed, but the transcript may be corrected under § 221.56(b).

§ 221.59 What are the requirements for post-hearing briefs?

(a) *General.* (1) Each party may file a post-hearing brief within 10 days after the close of the hearing, unless the ALJ sets a different deadline.

(2) A party may file a reply brief only if requested by the ALJ. The deadline for filing a reply brief, if any, will be set by the ALJ.

(3) The ALJ may limit the length of the briefs to be filed under this section.

(b) *Content.* (1) An initial brief must include:

- (i) A concise statement of the case;
- (ii) A separate section containing proposed findings regarding the issues of material fact, with supporting citations to the hearing record;
- (iii) Arguments in support of the party's position; and
- (iv) Any other matter required by the ALJ.

(2) A reply brief, if requested by the ALJ, must be limited to any issues identified by the ALJ.

(c) *Form.* (1) An exhibit admitted in evidence or marked for identification in the record may not be reproduced in the brief.

(i) Such an exhibit may be reproduced, within reasonable limits, in an appendix to the brief.

(ii) Any pertinent analysis of an exhibit may be included in a brief.

(2) If a brief exceeds 20 pages, it must contain:

- (i) A table of contents and of points made, with page references; and

- (ii) An alphabetical list of citations to legal authority, with page references.

§ 221.60 What are the requirements for the ALJ's decision?

(a) *Timing.* The ALJ must issue a decision within the shorter of the following time periods:

(1) 30 days after the close of the hearing under § 221.58; or

(2) 90 days after issuance of the referral notice under § 221.25(c), 7 CFR 1.625(c), or 43 CFR 45.25(c).

(b) *Content.* (1) The decision must contain:

(i) Findings of fact on all disputed issues of material fact;

(ii) Conclusions of law necessary to make the findings of fact (such as rulings on materiality and on the admissibility of evidence); and

(iii) Reasons for the findings and conclusions.

(2) The ALJ may adopt any of the findings of fact proposed by one or more of the parties.

(3) The decision will not contain conclusions as to whether any preliminary condition or prescription should be adopted, modified, or rejected, or whether any proposed alternative should be adopted or rejected.

(c) *Service.* Promptly after issuing his or her decision, the ALJ must:

(1) Serve the decision on each party to the hearing; and

(2) Forward a copy of the decision to FERC, along with the complete hearing record, for inclusion in the license proceeding record.

(d) *Finality.* The ALJ's decision under this section will be final, with respect to the disputed issues of material fact, for NMFS and any other Department involved in the hearing. To the extent the ALJ's decision forms the basis for any condition or prescription subsequently included in the license, it may be subject to judicial review under 16 U.S.C. 825l(b).

Subpart C—Alternatives Process

§ 221.70 How must documents be filed and served under this subpart?

(a) *Filing.* (1) A document under this subpart must be filed using one of the methods set forth in § 221.12(b).